

**Speech by Mr P K Ong, Managing Director of Sembawang Shipyard Pte Ltd on the occasion of
Green Wave Environmental Care Project for Schools
Award Presentation Ceremony
30 January 2007, Mandarin Court, Meritus Mandarin Singapore**

Good morning,

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Dr Lim Wee Kiak, Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC, Mr Goh Geok Ling, Chairman of SembCorp Marine, Alliance Partners, Advisors, Judges, Honourable guests, dear students, their teachers, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very honoured and pleased to welcome all of you to this happy occasion of our Green Wave Environmental Care Project Award Presentation for schools and tertiary institutions. I would like to thank the Minister for gracing this morning's ceremony despite his very busy schedule. Your presence, Mr Minister, is deeply appreciated.

Do you notice ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls that today we have gathered one of the largest and wide ranging group of environmentalists. We have our Minister for the Environment, Members of Parliament, the key people of National Environment Agency, National Environment Council, Nature Society, National Parks Board, Singapore Science Centre, the professors involved in science, engineering and environment, the oil majors, Shell and BP, industrial groups like Sembcorp Marine, Senoko Power, other Statutory Boards like HDB, community centres' representatuives, educational institutions' and schools' heads and students.

We are all united here with the passion for the improvement of our environment.

We are here today to recognise all participating students who had put in tremendous effort and time juggling a hectic school programme to support our Green Wave competition. To the winning students, we are delighted that your entries have won over our panel of judges and they have commented that the submissions have surpassed previous years' in terms of quality, innovation and depth of thinking. Well done and congratulations.

This is also the first time since the inception of Green Wave Competition that the Top Prize for the Tertiary Competition has been won. Besides the cash award, our alliance partner Shell International Trading and Shipping Company Limited, co-sponsor of this top award, will also offer members of the winning team, a one-month development attachment with a Shell associate company, Northwest Shelf Shipping Company in Australia from March 2007. We would like to thank Shell and Northwest Shelf Shipping for their generous support and hope that the students will benefit from this valuable experience.

The main objective of the Green Wave Environmental Care Project for schools when we launched in 2003 is to enthuse and set our students on a life- long educational and discovery journey in environmental awareness and involvement, which we hope will fire their passion and imagination to want to make a difference in environmental care and protection. When one student takes an interest, excites his peers to share his interest and

together with their teachers' guidance are keen to experiment on a project through creative and innovative thinking, then Greenwave has achieved its main objective.

Green Wave can make an added difference by providing the organisational support to our students to further develop innovative projects for potential use in relevant industrial settings. For example, the prize winning entry by Ngee Ann Polytechnic to detect unusual water flows may be explored further to address problems with water leakage and illegal tapping of water.

In fact, this innovative idea was sparked off from a simple wish to reduce the utility bills in the home. I have been told the two students from Ngee Ann Polytechnic were challenged by their lecturer to come up with a solution to stop the wastage of water caused by people forgetting to turn off the tap. Through brainstorming and experiment, the team came up with an innovative Water Management System whereby the sensor which is fastened to the water pipe would trigger a sound buzzer to alert the home owners to turn off the tap after say 10 minutes. The electric circuit system devised by the team costs less than \$10, a small price to pay for effective control of water wastage. Well done Mr Goo Chee Tiong and Mr Nguyen Son Tung.

Today, more than before, governments, various economic and environmental bodies have recognised the importance and urgency of addressing the impact of climatic changes and global warming around the world. We have seen reports and shocking pictures of the devastating

effects of never-before extreme weather changes affecting the lives of people from all walks of life; for instance, skiers in European Alps kept away by warm temperatures, storms wreaking havoc across Europe and grounding planes, crop farmers in Australia experiencing the worst drought in two decades and nearer home, the worst floods in a century in West Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines causing hundreds of thousands farmers and villagers to be displaced from their homes. Agricultural and infrastructural damages run into billions of dollars. In Singapore, we too have had more rain in the past two months than the whole of 2006 but thankfully, we have been spared the devastation of torrential rains compared to our neighbours.

Whilst the causes of global warming and climatic changes are being debated by experts and interest groups, we can no longer ignore the fact that unless each and everyone of us do our part to influence and improve environmental solutions and technologies, then the pace of global warming and climatic changes will not be mitigated. The effects as we have seen around the world today will only worsen.

Hence, we are heartened to see a steady increase in the number of project entries and student participants over the years, from a mere 117 projects and 627 participants in 2003 to 275 projects and 1,100 student participants in 2006, I would like to challenge our Green Wave committee, all students and teachers to reach out to more fellow students to participate and increase the number of project entries to more than 350 and participation level to 1,500 students. We hope to see Green Wave progressing to

become a key platform for our students to share their innovative green ideas on sustainable environmental care and protection. We have also not forgotten our bold vision to introduce the Green Wave Competition to students in the ASEAN region by 2008 / 2009. Our ambition would only be possible with your continued strong support and encouragement and we are in the process of identifying like-minded organizations in Malaysia to co-organise or co-sponsor the event for students in Malaysia.

It remains for me to thank all of you for your presence, words of encouragement and endorsement and we are grateful for the support and guidance from the various governmental bodies, agencies, schools and tertiary institutions. It is truly through your efforts and commitment that have helped us grow and raise the standard and profile of the Green Wave competition.

Our special thanks and appreciation to the hardworking and dedicated panel of judges from the Ministry of Education, Singapore Environment Council, NParks, National Environment Agency, Housing Development Board of Singapore, Senoko Power, National University of Singapore, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Science Centre, Polytechnics and schools. Thank you for spending long hours in the shipyard, despite your very busy schedule and sometime into late evenings, to critically assess the projects and select the winners. Without your inputs and involvement, today's ceremony would not

have been possible. Special appreciation also goes to the Green Wave Advisory Board for their guidance and vision

We are also grateful to our alliance partners, namely Shell International Trading and Shipping and BP Shipping, the co-sponsors of this competition for their continued strong support. In fact, various managers from the 2 oil majors have flown in from London specially for this event.

To all the winners and stars of today's ceremony, congratulations! You have done well and I hope that you will continue your pursuit to seek out innovative and interesting ideas for the betterment of our environment. To those who did not win this year, don't give up and please do try again this year. The prizes may get bigger and better!

To all the schools' Principals, Heads of Departments, and Teachers, thank you for encouraging the students to participate in the competition and we hope that more will take part this year.

To the shipyard's Community and Environment Care Committee, thank you for your dedication and hard work for making this whole event possible.

Finally, we thank you again; Minister, for your support and for doing us this great honour in gracing this occasion and to present the awards to the winners.

Thank you for your attention.